

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
December 22, 2005

Contact: Lynette Maselli
Public Information Specialist
304-558-3707 x126

WIRT COUNTY MAN SENTENCED ON TWO COUNTS OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION FRAUD

CHARLESTON, WV – West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, Jane L. Cline, announced today that Terry Lee Villers was sentenced earlier this month on two felony counts of Workers' Compensation Fraud.

Villers, of Wirt County, pleaded guilty in Kanawha County Circuit Court October 11, 2005 to knowingly securing benefits to which he was not entitled, and to making a false statement under oath. Both charges stem from Villers' claim in September 2004 that he was injured while working as a school bus driver for the Wirt County Board of Education.

"Villers filed a report indicating that he suffered a work-related knee injury upon exiting a bus at the Board's bus garage parking lot in Elizabeth," Cline said. "An anonymous phone call to the Workers' Compensation Fraud Hotline prompted an investigation, and evidence was found that Villers actually was injured when he jumped off a dozer while working in his private contracting business."

Medical expenses and disability benefits of nearly twelve-thousand dollars were paid by the Workers' Compensation Commission in the claim.

Villers was sentenced December 16, 2005 in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County to two terms of one year probation to run consecutively and ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$11,726.04.

Anyone with information relating to a suspected case of Workers' Compensation Fraud is urged to call, toll-free, 1-888-372-8392.

.